

**VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY
REGULATIONS OF DOCTORAL STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY SCIENCE
FIELD AT VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY IN COOPERATION
WITH MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY**

I. General part

1. Regulations of Doctoral Studies in Psychology science field at Vytautas Magnus University in cooperation with Mykolas Romeris University (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) are prepared in accordance with the Regulations of Doctoral Studies approved by Order No. V-739 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 May 2020.

2. These Regulations establish the procedure for doctoral studies, doctoral research, thesis preparation, defence and awarding of the doctoral degree in Psychology science field at Vytautas Magnus University in cooperation with Mykolas Romeris University, which have been jointly granted the right to conduct doctoral studies by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. The purpose of doctoral studies is to prepare scientists who are able to independently carry out work of scientific research and experimental development and solve scientific problems. Doctoral studies shall ensure sufficient competence for a person who has completed these studies and has been awarded a degree of the Doctor of Science: most advanced knowledge of research activity, fields of science and their interaction; special skills and methods to solve problems of scientific research and other areas, expand knowledge or professional practice; ability to work independently, knowledge and know-how of science and profession required for the development of new ideas and processes and ability to use them in studies and other activities.

4. A degree of the Doctor of Science may be awarded to a person who has successfully completed full-time (up to 4 years) or part-time (up to 6 years) doctoral studies, prepared a dissertation and successfully defended it, or to a person who has successfully defended a dissertation prepared externally.

5. The following concepts are used in the Regulations:

Joint Doctoral Institutions shall be scientific and/or study institutions that have been granted the right to conduct doctoral studies.

Coordinating Institution/Coordinating University shall be Vytautas Magnus University.

Doctoral student (hereinafter referred to as a doctoral student) is a student and a researcher of third-cycle studies.

Work plan of the doctoral student (hereinafter referred to as the work plan of the doctoral student) is an individual work plan of the doctoral student which provides stages and deadlines of doctoral studies, scientific research and dissertation preparation.

Scientific supervisor of a doctoral student (hereinafter referred to as a supervisor) shall be a researcher who meets the requirements of the Regulations of Doctoral Studies and supervises studies and scientific research of a doctoral student.

Committee of Doctoral Studies (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) shall be a group of researchers who are carrying out high-level scientific research and are responsible for the content, quality, management and implementation of doctoral studies.

Researcher carrying out high-level scientific research shall be a researcher who meets the requirements no lower than those of a senior research worker of the Coordinating Institution.

Defence Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) is a group of researchers composed by the Committee of Doctoral Studies which, after examining the dissertation presented for defence and evaluating its quality and compliance with the requirements for the dissertation, decides whether a dissertation candidate is to be granted a degree of the Doctor of Science.

Doctoral Student Institution shall be an institution in which a doctoral student is pursuing doctoral studies and scientific research and is preparing a dissertation.

Doctoral School is a division of the Doctoral Institution which supervises activities of doctoral studies.

6. Doctoral Institutions shall ensure the exchange of individual data of doctoral students and external students required for the process of doctoral studies or for the management of external student dissertation defence in accordance with legislation.

7. The Committee of Doctoral Studies of Psychology science field shall be composed of at least 9 high-level researchers working (who have been selected for the position following a competitive procedure or who have been employed by the institution for at least 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) for the last three years). The requirement to take positions through a competitive process shall not apply to researchers from foreign research and study institutions. When the right to doctoral studies is granted with the participation of a foreign research and studies institution(s), the Committee shall include more than half of the researchers from the Lithuanian institution(s). The members of the Committee of Doctoral Studies shall include at least two-thirds of the members of the field of study in which the institution(s) have obtained the doctoral degree. At least half of the members of the Committee of Doctoral Studies and its chairperson shall meet at least the qualification requirements set by the Coordinating Institution for the position of chief research worker, and the remaining members of the Committee of Doctoral Studies shall meet at least the qualification requirements set by the Coordinating Institution for the position of a senior research worker. Qualification requirements apply in all cases to the extent that they relate to scientific publications. The institution(s) shall review and update the composition of the Committee of Doctoral Studies at least every 5 years. A researcher may be a member of no more than two science (arts) doctoral committees.

8. After acquiring the right of doctoral studies in the science field of psychology, the Doctoral Institutions shall publicly announce the composition of the Committee on the websites of the Doctoral Institution. The Committee shall elect a chairperson at its first meeting, who may serve for no more than two consecutive 5-years. The chairperson may be from each Doctoral institution. The Committee of Doctoral Studies may also include high-level international researchers from foreign research and study institutions. The requirement to take positions through a competitive process shall not apply to researchers from foreign research and study institutions.

9. Changes in the composition of the Committee shall be agreed with the Research Council of Lithuania.

10. The doctoral dissertation shall be defended, and a scientific degree shall be awarded in the Defence Council of the science field, which shall be composed for defence of the specific dissertation after the dissertation has been completed and presented for defence. The Defence Council shall consist of at least five Committee members.

11. The members of the Committee of Doctoral Studies, the supervisors of doctoral students, the members of the Defence Council, and the advisors shall be of good repute as defined in the Law on Research and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania.

12. Doctoral institutions may conclude agreements with foreign institutions for the implementation of joint doctoral studies. *Cotutelle agreements* may also be concluded for the doctoral studies of individual doctoral students, joint supervision and award of doctoral degrees. The agreement shall be concluded between the Doctoral Institution, the foreign institution and the doctoral student (who may also study at a foreign institution). The agreement shall include the issues of conducting and financing doctoral studies, joint supervision, preparation of the dissertation, mobility, protection of intellectual property, examination of the prepared dissertation, formation of the Defence Council and defence procedures, and awarding of the doctoral degree.

II. Coordination of doctoral studies

13. Doctoral studies and scientific research shall be coordinated and controlled by the Committee

14. The process of doctoral studies shall be organised by the Doctoral Institutions.

15. The course of doctoral studies shall be administered by a university designated by the Doctoral Institutions by agreement from among them (hereinafter referred to as the Coordinating University).

16. **The Committee shall:**

16.1. approve the terms and procedure of dissertation topics and a competition of doctoral students' supervisors as well as open competition for admission to the doctoral studies;

16.2. perform the selection of dissertation topics and supervisors of doctoral students;

16.3. carries out the admission to doctoral studies;

16.4. consider and present for approval the candidacies of doctoral students' scientific supervisors and consultants; mediate in the appointment of consultants; consider applications for the replacement of scientific supervisor or consultant;

16.5. approve the doctoral study programme of the science field of psychology as well as changes in the programme, the work plans of doctoral students and examination committees;

16.6. provide conclusions on the plans for and implementation of doctoral studies, research, publication of the results thereof, and the preparation of the doctoral dissertations; postponement of the deadlines for the doctoral student's work plan;

16.7. conduct the certification of doctoral students; the processes of crediting of modules taken at another institution;

16.8. ensure a successful process of doctoral studies and take care of its improvement;

16.9. evaluate the prepared doctoral dissertations;

16.10. form the Defence Council and appoint the date for dissertation defence.

17. Documents of the Committee meetings shall be managed by the meeting secretary; the minutes of meeting shall be signed by the chairperson of the Committee and the meeting secretary. The Committee shall present its recommendations, proposals and the minutes of resolutions to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University, which in turn shall prepare material to the Doctoral Institutions.

18. The decision of the Committee of Doctoral Studies shall be valid if at least 2/3 of all members of the Committee of Doctoral Studies vote in favour of it. The minutes of the meeting of the Committee shall be preserved at the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University for 6 years, later in the archive of the Coordinating University.

19. A survey for a discussion on the issue considered by the Committee may be prepared using electronic means of communication. Using electronic means of communication, the Committee members shall express their opinion regarding the considered issue and vote.

20. At the end of the meeting, the chairperson of the Committee shall deliver the documents to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University.
21. **The Doctoral Institution** shall:
 - 21.1. announce, in accordance with the terms and procedures laid down by the Committee, a competition for topics and supervisors of doctoral students;
 - 21.2. announce, in accordance with the terms and procedures laid down by the Committee, an open competition for admission to the doctoral studies;
 - 21.3. manage state budget funds dedicated to the implementation of doctoral studies at the Doctoral Institution;
 - 21.4. accept documents of applicants for the doctoral studies;
 - 21.5. sign a contract with the Doctoral Institution when it is not the Doctoral Institution in the science field, which shall define commitments and conditions of studies;
 - 21.6. if the Doctoral Institution is a university, it shall manage the production, accounting and registration of doctoral diploma templates, issue and register doctoral diplomas.
22. **The Coordinating University** shall:
 - 22.1. organise competition of topics and doctoral students' supervisors;
 - 22.2. organise an open competition for admission to the doctoral studies;
 - 22.3. present reports on the implementation of doctoral studies to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, the Research Council of Lithuania and other institutions;
 - 22.4. collect information on the process of doctoral studies;
 - 22.5. preserve the minutes of the Committee meetings and other documents;
 - 22.6. based on the Committee's documents, prepare material for the Doctoral Institutions;
 - 22.7. collect documents from the Doctoral Institutions and give them to the Committee;
 - 22.8. draft joint document projects;
23. **The Doctoral Student Institution** shall:
 - 23.1. manage the funds transferred from the state budget for the doctoral study programme and research, for the preparation and defence of the doctoral dissertation, for the work of the supervisor or consultant, and for the payment of related expenses;
 - 23.2. award scholarships for doctoral students;
 - 23.3. prepare resolutions regarding implementation of doctoral studies, appointment of supervisors and consultants of doctoral students, and establishment of the Defence Council;
 - 23.4. organise the formulation of the plan for the study programme and scientific research of the doctoral student, the publication of doctoral dissertations, the defences of dissertations;
 - 23.5. create suitable conditions for the doctoral student to prepare and implement the doctoral study programme and the individual plan for scientific research, and to prepare and successfully defend the doctoral dissertation;
 - 23.6. formulate and preserve the doctoral student's file;
 - 23.7. prepare and provide reports to the Coordinating University regarding the process of doctoral studies;
 - 23.8. submit the required documents of doctoral students to the Coordinating University.
 - 23.9. manage the production, accounting and registration of doctoral diploma templates;
 - 23.10. issue and register doctoral diplomas.

24. Doctoral studies and scientific research shall be organised by the Departments / Institutes of Doctoral Institutions to which the doctoral students are appointed on the recommendation of the Committee and by Order of the head of the Doctoral Institution. These Units shall:

24.1. participate in the preparation of the study programme of the doctoral student and create conditions for the doctoral student to successfully implement the plan of studies and scientific research;

24.2. monitor the process of the doctoral student's doctoral studies;

24.3. provide methodological support;

24.4. promote mobility of the doctoral student;

24.5. for each certification of the doctoral student, present their conclusion to the Committee regarding the results of the doctoral student's studies and scientific research as well as the appropriateness of continuation of doctoral studies;

24.6. after the doctoral student has prepared a dissertation, organise preliminary considerations of the doctoral dissertation and appoint reviewers of these considerations, submit conclusions to the Committee regarding compliance of the doctoral dissertation with appropriate requirements.

III. Admission to the doctoral studies

25. Persons shall be accepted to the doctoral studies in the science field on the basis of open competition. Persons who have academic qualification of a master's degree or equivalent higher education qualification can participate in the open competition. Doctoral students who have voluntarily discontinued, have not returned after a study break, or have been excluded from doctoral studies by the Committee's decision cannot apply for state-funded doctoral places if they have already studied for more than half of the doctoral period in a doctoral place financed from the state budget.

26. State-funded doctoral study places in the science field shall be distributed between the Doctoral Institutions by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania.

27. No later than one month before the announcement of admission to doctoral studies, a call for dissertation topics and doctoral students' supervisors shall be announced. The procedure and conditions of the competition shall be approved by the Committee.

28. If the topic or supervisor is not proposed by the Doctoral Institution, the Doctoral Institution shall provide official confirmation of the funding of the doctoral studies.

29. The competition shall be organised by the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University and implemented by the Committee. Relying on the competition procedures of the Committee, a list of selected doctoral dissertation topics of the Doctoral Institutions and doctoral supervisors shall be finalised by the minutes of the Committee, signed by the chairperson of the Committee and the meeting secretary. The Committee shall present the minutes of the meeting concerning the dissertation topics and doctoral students' supervisors to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University, which shall be responsible for the announcement of the list of dissertation topics selected during the competition on the websites of the Doctoral Institutions.

30. On the recommendation of the Committee, Doctoral Institutions shall announce an open competition for admission to the doctoral studies and admission conditions.

31. An applicant may submit a request for permission to participate in the open competition for the doctoral studies to the Doctoral School at every Doctoral Institution. Along with the request, which specifies the doctoral studies' science field, study form and the desired dissertation topics by order of priority (no more than two), the following documents shall be provided:

- 31.1. a diploma which confirms a master's degree or its equivalent qualification as well as diploma supplement (annex); a certificate issued by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education or a university authorised to provide academic recognition of education and qualifications, regarding recognition of higher education qualification acquired abroad;
 - 31.2. one recommendation from a scientist in the field of science;
 - 31.3. *a curriculum vitae*;
 - 31.4. an approved list of references and copies of scientific articles;
 - 31.5. other documents specified in the admission conditions to the doctoral studies.
32. The admission competition shall be organised by the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University and implemented by the Committee. The competition procedure shall be applied separately to the topics of doctoral institutions in the field of science. All applicants shall be required to attend an interview with the members of the Committee.
33. The heads of the Doctoral Institutions or their authorised persons shall sign bilateral agreements in the form prescribed by the Doctoral Institution with the persons admitted separately to full-time and part-time doctoral studies in the field of research on a competitive basis.
34. Selection criteria for the applicants to the doctoral studies shall be as follows:
- 34.1. significance of scientific publications and relevance of scientific experience to the topic;
 - 34.2. the average of the applicant's assessments in the master's degree studies or equivalent cycle higher education studies and the assessment of the final thesis;
 - 34.3. English language command;
 - 34.4. a research project;
 - 34.5. a motivational interview and other criteria approved by the minutes of the Committee.
35. Selection criteria, their weight coefficients and calculation of the competition score shall be approved every academic year by the minutes of the Committee.
36. Based on the selection criteria, the Committee shall evaluate applicants by scores and form the priority queues for the topics of the Doctoral Institution in accordance with the highest competition score. These competition lists of the applicants and the decision regarding the proposal to accept or reject applicants to the doctoral studies shall be recorded by the minutes of the Committee. The minutes shall be signed by the chairperson of the Committee and the meeting secretary. The Committee shall present the minutes of the meeting to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University.
37. On the basis of the minutes of the Committee, the applicants shall be accepted to the doctoral studies by orders of the heads of the Doctoral Institutions, specifying the field of science, the type of funding, the Doctoral Institution, the topic of the dissertation, the form of doctoral studies, and the Department/Institute.
38. If free places are available after the admission in accordance with the quotas of the Doctoral Institutions or if some of the accepted persons do not arrive to study at the beginning of the academic year, the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University may organise the second stage of admission, which shall be conducted following the same procedure.
39. Upon proposal by the Committee, those who were not accepted to state-funded places in the competition may choose paid doctoral studies upon paying the doctoral study fee established by the Doctoral Institution with which they will sign a contract.
40. Foreign citizens applying for admission to the doctoral studies who hold a master's degree or equivalent higher education diploma shall, in addition to the documents referred to in clause 31, submit a document confirming the recognition of the qualification obtained abroad.
41. For state-funded doctoral studies, citizens of the EU shall participate in the competition in accordance with the general procedure; non-EU citizens shall participate in the competition in accordance with the legislation in force at the time.

42. No later than in a month's time after the beginning of the academic year, the Committee shall organise a meeting (meetings) of the Committee which (that) includes (include) participation of the newly accepted doctoral students and the supervisors who won the competition of dissertation topics. New doctoral students are assigned supervisors, dissertation topics. The Committee's recommendation shall be recorded by the minutes of the meeting. The records of these minutes shall be provided to each Doctoral Institution separately. The minutes and the records of the minutes shall be submitted to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University, which shall submit the Committee's recommendation (records of the minutes) to the Doctoral Schools of Doctoral Institutions.

43. On the recommendation of the Committee, the heads of Doctoral Institutions or their authorised persons shall approve the doctoral students' intended topics and supervisors. The Order shall be prepared by the Doctoral School of Doctoral Institution.

44. The file of a person who is not accepted to the doctoral studies shall be preserved for a year in the institution to which a person was applying at the Doctoral School; later it shall be destroyed.

45. A person who has submitted an application for participation in the admission to doctoral studies and was not accepted, within three days from the announcement of the minutes of the Committee, may:

45.1. submit a motivated request or appeal to the Committee;

45.2. after receiving a negative response by the Committee, within three days submit an appeal to the head of the Doctoral Institution to which the doctoral student was applying.

IV. Scientific supervision of doctoral students

46. Studies and scientific research of the doctoral student shall be supervised by the doctoral student's scientific supervisor. The supervisor may supervise not more than five doctoral students at the same time. During doctoral studies with companies, institutions and organisations, the doctoral student shall be assigned two supervisors – one from the Institution, the other from the company, institution or organisation. A head from the company, institution or organisation shall be in the same field of study as a doctoral student or researcher; the requirements set out in the Regulation do not apply to him/her.

47. At the recommendation of the Committee, no later than one month after the admission of the doctoral student, the head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative shall approve the supervisor by order.

48. If required, doctoral student's consultants may be appointed (not more than two consultants can be appointed if they are needed in the opinion of the doctoral student, the supervisor and the Committee) who can be researchers of another science field (branch). Doctoral student consultants may be appointed no earlier than the 2nd year of doctoral studies. On the recommendation of the Committee, the head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative shall approve the consultant by order.

49. The supervisor and the doctoral student's consultants shall meet at least the requirements of a senior research worker established by the Coordinating Institution. A researcher from a foreign institution of research and studies can be the supervisor or the consultant of the doctoral student. In cases when the doctoral student's supervisor is from a foreign research and study institution, the doctoral student's consultant shall be from the university in which the doctoral student is studying (for a supervisor and consultant, the qualification requirements apply to the extent that they relate to scientific publications).

50. Written agreements of supervisors and consultants as well as the lists of their main scientific publications and other research activities shall be submitted by the Committee to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University along with the recommendation to approve the supervisors and the consultants. The Doctoral School of the Coordinating University shall submit

the Committee's recommendations and the documents of the consultants' research activities to the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution.

51. The supervisor shall:

51.1. draw up drafts of the doctoral student's study programme and research plan in cooperation with the doctoral student;

51.2. propose applicants for the positions of consultants, if they are required;

51.3. provide the doctoral student with methodological support, supervise the doctoral student's research activity and continuously monitor the process of the doctoral student's doctoral studies;

51.4. for each certification of the doctoral student, present his/her conclusion regarding the results of the doctoral student's studies and scientific research as well as the appropriateness of continuation of doctoral studies;

51.5. help the doctoral student solve organisational issues of studies and the preparation of the dissertation.

52. The consultant of the doctoral student shall:

52.1. give advice the doctoral student in a particular field (branch) of research;

52.2. organise, if necessary, the conduct of research or experiments in other units of Doctoral Institutions or other Lithuanian or foreign universities and/or research institutes.

53. If, for important reasons, the supervisor or the consultant has to be replaced, such replacement shall be coordinated and approved following the same procedure as the appointment of the supervisor.

54. The doctoral student shall have the right to submit a motivated request addressed to the head of the Doctoral Institution to change his/her supervisor if not less than one year till completion of the doctoral studies is left. The head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative shall direct the request to the Committee, in whose meeting it shall be considered within 1 month (except July and August). If the doctoral student's request is satisfied, the Committee shall, taking into account the topic of the doctoral student's dissertation, appoint a researcher who will henceforth act as the supervisor of the doctoral student. If the Committee does not satisfy the doctoral student's request, the supervisor shall continue to supervise. The replacement of the supervisor when less than a year till completion of the doctoral studies is left shall be possible only for important reasons and shall be made by the decision of the Committee.

V. Work plan of the doctoral student

55. No later than within one month after the approval of the supervisor, the doctoral student and the supervisor shall draw up the doctoral student's work plan. The plan shall include the deadlines for the fulfilment of all tasks. Focused scientific research shall be initiated in the beginning of doctoral studies.

56. Doctoral studies shall consist of no less than 30 ECTS credits. It is recommended for the studied courses to include not just the topic of the dissertation being prepared, but also the learning of key competences (i.e., preparation of project applications, issues of ethics and procedures as well as copyright, communication abilities, etc.) whose amount shall be no less than 5 credits. The credits shall be acquired by studying at least 3 study courses/modules. The credits can also be accumulated by participating in international schools for doctoral students and while the doctoral student attends part-time studies abroad. The decision regarding the acceptance of the credits shall be made by the Committee.

57. If the academic qualification of a master's degree or its equivalent in higher education acquired by the person accepted to the doctoral studies is not in the science field to which he/she has been admitted that person may be assigned additional studies of equalising courses as recommended by the Committee.

58. The doctoral study programme of the field of science shall consist of compulsory study courses/modules assigned by the Committee and freely selected study courses/modules of the doctoral studies in the field of science or branch and adjacent science fields. The doctoral study programme of the field of science and its amendments shall be approved in the Committee meeting.

59. The doctoral student shall hear compulsory study courses/modules of this programme that are established by the Committee. After agreeing with the supervisor and taking into account the individual research needs, the doctoral student may choose other study courses/modules from the list of free-choice study courses/modules compiled by the doctoral programme in the field of science. Doctoral students may also take free-choice study courses /modules that are not included in the study programme, but which are certified at doctoral level by the University or other higher education institutions, provided that they are relevant to the topic of the doctoral dissertation being prepared by the doctoral student, or that they are intended to develop general competences.

60. The doctoral student's study programme shall consist only of study courses/modules approved by the Committee. Doctoral student institutions shall be responsible for ensuring that only approved study courses/modules that are in line with the doctoral study programme are included in the doctoral students' individual study programmes.

61. The doctoral student, after coordinating with the supervisor and the Committee, shall record the courses he/she plans to study in the individual study programme, which shall be an integral part of the doctoral student's work plan.

62. Teaching in doctoral studies is possible for persons who have a scientific degree and meet the requirements of at least a senior research worker set by the Coordinating Institution (qualification requirements apply to the extent related to scientific publications), whose scientific research and publications in the last five years correspond to the topics of the study courses taught.

63. Lectures/seminars of the doctoral studies shall be organised by the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Student Institution and by the Department/Institute of the Doctoral Institution whose employees have been approved by the committee for teaching the study courses/modules of doctoral studies.

64. The doctoral student's plan of scientific research, which is another component of the work plan of the doctoral student, shall consist of the following: analysis of scientific literature, scientific research a portion of which can be conducted at high-level foreign research centres, analysis of the obtained data, writing of scientific articles, reading of scientific papers at an international scientific conference, preparation of a dissertation, etc.

65. The Department/Institute of the Doctoral Student Institution shall consider the work plan of the doctoral student and present its conclusions to the Committee. The work plan of the doctoral student and its amendments (if required) shall be approved by the Committee. No later than within a month after the approval of the supervisor, each doctoral student shall present this plan to the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution, and it shall be stored in the doctoral student's file.

66. The doctoral student shall follow the study programme and conduct scientific research in accordance with the approved plan of scientific research. The content, quality, scope and deadlines of the conducted research shall be evaluated during certification of the doctoral student.

67. Conditions shall be created for the doctoral student to use the equipment present at the Departments/Institutes, laboratories and other research units of the Doctoral Institutions, needed for the scientific research included into his/her scientific research plan. If it is impossible to carry out some of the research at the Doctoral Institutions, the doctoral student may be sent to carry out the research in some other state or foreign research institution.

VI. Examination and certification of the doctoral student

68. Studies of every course/module shall be completed by taking an exam. At least two examiners shall be required. Teachers who taught the study course/module, the Committee members, also other scientists, active specialists of that science field (may be from another institution of research and studies) including supervisors and consultants may be appointed members of the Examination Commission. Exams shall be held in writing or orally and the exam papers shall be stored in accordance with the procedure established by the Doctoral Student Institution.

69. After having passed the exam, an exam sheet shall be filled in and signed by all examiners, or an electronic study course register shall be signed by the chairperson of the Examination Commission. The examination sheets shall be stored in the doctoral student's file at the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Student Institution, and the study course records shall be stored in accordance with the procedure established by the Doctoral Institution.

70. If the exam is failed, it can be re-taken once, but no sooner than after a month. If the exam is failed the second time, special certification of the doctoral student shall be initiated.

71. Full-time doctoral students shall pass all exams (except those planned at a foreign research and study institution) within the first two years of doctoral studies; part-time doctoral students shall pass them within the first three years of doctoral studies.

72. Taking into consideration the doctoral student's request and with the approval of the supervisor, the Committee may accept previously passed exams of courses studied as part of doctoral study programmes.

73. In accordance with the deadlines set by the Committee, the doctoral student shall report to the Department/Institute of the Doctoral Student Institution twice a year. After evaluating the doctoral student's performance of the work plan, the Department/Institute, with participation of the doctoral student and his/her supervisor shall submit its conclusion to the Committee. The supervisor of a doctoral student who, for objective reasons, does not participate in the certification of the doctoral student shall submit a written assessment of the doctoral student's performance to the Department/Institute. The Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution shall submit the documents of the doctoral student's certification that were considered in the Department/Institute to the Committee, which shall certify the doctoral student positively (thus agreeing with continuation of doctoral studies and correcting the programme for the next academic year) or negatively (thus proposing for the doctoral studies to be terminated), or propose postponement of certification for the period no longer than 3 months until the drawbacks in the implementation of the work plan are removed. The doctoral student and his/her supervisor may be invited to the meeting of the Committee.

74. If the doctoral student obviously fails to comply with the requirements of the study or research programme, on recommendation of the doctoral student's supervisor or the head of the Unit as well as the Committee, an extraordinary certification may be initiated.

75. A negatively assessed doctoral student shall be removed from the doctoral studies by order of the head of the Doctoral Institution.

76. The minutes of the Committee regarding certification of doctoral students and the documents presented for the doctoral student's certification shall be submitted to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University, which shall prepare and submit these documents for the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Student Institution.

77. Upon receiving the doctoral student's request and the supervisor's agreement, the head of the Doctoral Student Institution or his/her authorised representative can grant academic leave of up to one year by his/her Order. During the academic leave, scholarship shall not be paid. Academic leave for personal reasons may only be granted once per academic year.

78. The head of the Doctoral Student Institution or his/her authorised representative, after having received a doctoral student's request, the supervisor's approval and the

Department/Institute's approval, for important reasons (illness, maternity leave, etc.) by Order may:

- 78.1. extend the academic leave;
- 78.2. postpone the deadline for the passing of exams and annual certification specified in the individual programme for the period no longer than 3 months;
79. doctoral students' applications shall be registered, and draft orders shall be drawn up by the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution.

VII. Grants (scholarships), trips, appeals, other conditions

80. Persons admitted to state-funded places in a full-time doctoral programme shall be paid a scholarship of the amount set by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the duration of their studies. The scholarship shall be paid by the Doctoral Institution.

81. If, on the recommendation of the Committee, the certification of the doctoral student of full-time state-funded position is postponed, the payment of the grant (scholarship) shall be suspended during the period of the postponement of certification.

82. When studies are temporarily interrupted and the return to continue the doctoral studies is not on the last or first day of the month, the calendar days of the month shall be included in the duration of the doctoral studies and the corresponding part of the scholarship shall be paid.

83. The doctoral student may conduct scientific research or spend a period of time studying at other institutions in the country or abroad. This time period shall be included in the overall duration of the doctoral studies and full scholarship shall be paid for it. The costs of the trip shall be covered in accordance with the procedure established by the Doctoral Institution.

84. After receiving the supervisor's approval and agreement from the Department/Institute, doctoral students may be employed in full-time or part-time positions at the units of the Doctoral Institution. The doctoral student may be provided with an academic teaching practice of not more than 150 academic hours, the duration of which shall be determined by order of the head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative.

85. A motivated appeal or complaint related to the science degree that has not been awarded, rejection of an external student's or doctoral student's request to defend the dissertation and other issues related to the implementation of doctoral studies shall be submitted to the head of the Doctoral Institution within 14 working days of the adopted decision. The head of the Doctoral Institution shall submit the appeal or complaint to the relevant units of the Doctoral Institutions, or the structures established for that purpose. The appeal or complaint shall be considered, and a decision shall be made in two months from its receipt. The decision of the Doctoral Institution shall be sent to the appellant and to the Committee in 5 working days after it has been made. An appeal or complaint shall be examined in accordance with the procedure established by the Doctoral Institution.

VIII. PREPARING AND EXAMINING THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

86. The dissertation of the Doctor of Science, as an integral publication, shall consist (except for the case specified in clause 88) of the following parts: text and abstract of the dissertation. The copies of or references to scientific publications on the dissertation topic by the person submitting the dissertation for defence (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation candidate) shall be added separately.

87. A scientific monograph written by the dissertation candidate without co-authors may also be submitted to be defended as a dissertation of the Doctor of Science. An abstract of the monograph shall be also provided. In this case, other scientific publications shall be provided if they are required to develop the dissertation topic.

88. A doctoral dissertation may be also defended on the basis of a collection of scientific articles. In this case, the dissertation shall consist of a survey no shorter than 1 author's sheet, an abstract in Lithuanian or foreign language (not in the language in which the survey was prepared) and copies of the dissertation candidate's scientific publications on the dissertation topic. The dissertation candidate must have published the results of the dissertation research in at least four scientific articles (of which at least two are the sole author or the main co-author (a dissertation candidate is considered to be the main co-author of a scientific article when he/she is the first author of the article, unless otherwise stated in the publication that published the article). All authors of an article shall be considered primary co-authors if the article indicates that their contribution is equal. The Committee of Doctoral Studies shall decide on the compliance of the doctoral student's personal contribution with the requirements of the scientific dissertation. The most important research results of the dissertation must be published in at least four articles that have been published or accepted for publication (with a digital object identifier (DOI)) in international scientific publications with a citation index in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS) and (or) Elsevier Scopus (Scopus) databases. The same publications cannot be used to defend other doctoral dissertations.

89. A doctoral dissertation (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation) shall include a defined goal of the work, formulated tasks to be solved, identified scientific novelty of the work, survey of research conducted in the world on the subject of the dissertation, presentation of the applied research methods, discussion of the research results, justification of their reliability and relationship to other researchers' data, formulated conclusions and other aspects that are important in the view of the dissertation candidate. The dissertation should indicate which scientific articles published on the topic of the dissertation are the main co-authored by the dissertation candidate. The dissertation shall also be accompanied by a list of scientific conferences in which the results of the dissertation research have been published, and *a curriculum vitae* – a description of the dissertation candidate's life, scientific and creative activities.

90. The text of the dissertation shall be written in Lithuanian or English, or, if approved by the Committee of Doctoral Studies, in a language other than Lithuanian or English. The dissertation abstract (the recommended length is no shorter than 1 author's sheet) shall be prepared in Lithuanian or English (not in the language in which the dissertation's text is written). If the dissertation is written neither in Lithuanian nor English, then two abstracts shall be prepared (in Lithuanian and English). The dissertation and the abstract have to be written in correct language.

91. The dissertation shall indicate the supervisor, consultants and the composition of the Defence Council. If the doctoral student's supervisor has been replaced, the previous supervisor and the time period of his/her work shall be also specified. Specific requirements for the dissertation and examples of the first and second pages of the dissertation in Lithuanian and English are provided Annex 1.

92. The doctoral student can submit the dissertation for defence after he/she:

92.1. has passed all the exams provided for in the work plan of the doctoral student and has fulfilled other activities provided for in the work plan of the doctoral student;

92.2. when preparing a dissertation of the type referred to in clause 86, the doctoral student can submit the dissertation for defence after he/she has published the main results of his/her research in at least two articles (and is the sole author or main co-author of at least one of them), or having a DOI or other justification for publication, in peer-reviewed scientific journals, one of which is published in an international journal where more than half of the editorial board members are from outside the country in which the journal is published, or in scientific journals with a citation index in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science or the Elsevier Scopus databases, otherwise there

must be a minimum of 4 articles (in accordance with the type of the dissertation referred to in clause 88, that have not been submitted in the already defended dissertations);

92.3. has presented the research results in at least two international scientific events;

92.4. has done an internship at a foreign institution (institutions) of research and studies for at least three months (recommended). With the approval of the Committee, the doctoral student may complete an internship at the Lithuanian or foreign company, institution or organisation or at the Doctoral Institution, if it is supervised by a visiting high-level researcher from a foreign research and study institution.

92.5. has prepared the dissertation in accordance with the requirements of *Annex 1*.

93. The doctoral student shall present the prepared dissertation at a meeting of the Department/Institute of the Doctoral Student Institution, in the presence of the supervisor and the consultants. The Department/ Institute of the Doctoral Institution shall appoint 2 reviewers for the dissertation, who submit written reviews, and shall organise a meeting and determine whether the submitted material meet the requirements of the Regulations. The Doctoral School of the Doctoral Student Institution shall submit the doctoral dissertation review documents (including reviews) to the Committee in the Department/Institute.

94. The doctoral student of the Doctoral Institutions shall prepare an application for permission to defend a doctoral dissertation and submit it to the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution alongside with the following documents:

94.1. copies of the diploma of master qualification degree (or its equivalent higher education) and its supplements/appendages (doctoral students of Doctoral Institutions do not have to submit them, they shall be prepared by the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution based on the documents presented during the admission);

94.2. a *curriculum vitae* of the dissertation candidate, i.e., a description of life and scientific and creative activities;

94.3. approved copies of the pages of exams passed in accordance with the doctoral study programme (doctoral students of the Doctoral Institutions do not have to submit them, they are prepared by the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution based on the documents accumulated in the doctoral student's file and database records);

94.4. electronic copy of the dissertation;

94.5. the record from the minutes of the evaluation of the dissertation by the Department/Institute in which the dissertation has been prepared (if the record of the minutes has been submitted to the Doctoral School of Doctoral Student Institution during the period of doctoral studies, its copy does not have to be submitted, it shall be prepared by the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Student Institution); when the dissertation is submitted not by the doctoral students of Doctoral Institutions – the record of the minutes of the dissertation's assessment by the Institution at which the dissertation has been prepared and the recommendation to defend the dissertation signed by its head;

94.6. comments by the supervisor and the consultants (if any) (if the comments have already been submitted to the Doctoral School, their copies do not have to be provided, they shall be prepared by the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution);

94.7. the author's guarantee regarding the originality of the defended dissertation;

94.8. a list of scientific articles published on the topic of the dissertation and their copies (if the scientific article has not yet been published, it is necessary to attach a certificate from the editorial office of the publication indicating that the article will be accepted for publishing);

94.9. written consents from the publishers of the articles, to whom the copyright of the articles has been transferred, and from the main co-authors and authors of the articles, indicated as contact persons, to upload copies of the articles to the dissertation (only if the dissertation is prepared in accordance with clause 88).

95. After determining that the provided documents meet the established formal requirements and correspond to the request and other documents referred to in clause 94, the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Student Institution/Doctoral Institution shall submit them to the Committee.

96. No later than within two weeks after receiving the documents (except for July and August), the chairperson of the Committee shall summon a meeting in which two reviewers shall be appointed. The members of the Committee and researchers from the Doctoral Institutions, other research institutions and social partners can be reviewers. They submit their written feedback to the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Student Institution/Doctoral Institution within the time period established by the Committee.

97. No later than one month after the appointment of reviewers (except for the months of July and August), the chairperson of the Committee shall hold an open meeting of the Committee, attended by the doctoral student and his/her supervisor. The Committee shall listen to the doctoral student's presentation (not less than 20 minutes) about the dissertation, which shall reveal the scientific work's goal, tasks, novelty, relevance and originality, present the main results, statements and conclusions of the work. The doctoral student shall also respond to the comments made by the reviewers and to the questions of the Committee members. The Committee also listens to the supervisor's comment on the dissertation.

98. The Committee shall evaluate, which objective justification, the dissertation goals and tasks, the scientific novelty, relevance and originality; the survey of research conducted in the science field of the dissertation in Lithuania and abroad, the described methodology of the research; reliability and validity of the achieved results; validity of the defended conclusions and their conformity with the essence of the scientific research; conformity of the published scientific articles and the scientific research results presented in them with the main statements of the defended dissertation, the doctoral student's contribution to scientific publications on the dissertation topic.

99. If the dissertation candidate does not intend to or is unable to attend the meeting scheduled for the defence of his/her dissertation at the Committee, he/she shall inform the Committee members and reviewers thereof no later than five days before the date of the meeting. In such a case, the next Committee meeting to consider this dissertation may be scheduled no later than three months from the date of the scheduled meeting.

100. The Committee can make the following decisions by secret voting:

100.1. The dissertation has been prepared properly and recommended to be submitted for public defence; it corresponds with the requirements of the Regulations, the doctoral student has fulfilled the requirements of the Regulations and the dissertation can be submitted for defence without any changes or with small changes;

100.2. *The dissertation needs to be corrected and resubmitted to the Committee for consideration.* The dissertation is returned to the doctoral student. The consideration of the modified dissertation shall be initiated in accordance with the requirements of clause 96 and/or further clauses.

100.3. The dissertation does not meet the requirements.

101. After having decided that it is possible to submit the dissertation for defence, the Committee shall:

101.1. decide whether the meeting of the dissertation defence at the Defence Council will be public or closed;

101.2. draft the composition of the Defence Council;

101.3. together with the Department/Institute, the Doctoral School of Doctoral Student Institution/Doctoral Institution organise the reception of documents on the agreement of the planned Defence Council members and on the substantiation of their compliance with the qualification requirements for participants in the doctoral study process (lists, certificates, etc.);

101.4. determine the date and place of the dissertation defence;

101.5. prepare the minutes of the Committee and submits them to the Doctoral School of the Coordinating University;

102. The Committee shall establish the Defence Council which shall consist of at least five members and appoint one of its members as a chairperson. The Defence Council members shall meet the requirements that are no lower than those of a senior research worker of the Coordinating Institution (qualification requirements apply to the extent that they relate to scientific publications). A conflict of interests cannot emerge between the Defence Council members and the dissertation candidate or between his/her supervisor and the consultant. Members of the Defence Council cannot have co-authored publications with the dissertation candidate. More than half of the members of the Defence Council cannot have had co-authored publications with the dissertation candidate's supervisor or consultant for the last five years. The supervisor and the consultant of the doctoral student cannot be a member of the Defence Council. At least one member of the Defence Council shall be from a foreign institution of research and studies. At least two members of the Defence Council shall be researchers from other than the Doctoral Institution. If the work has been done at the intersection of multiple science fields or if it is required for the defended work to be evaluated comprehensively, two members of the Defence Council can be researchers of other fields of science. On the recommendation of the Committee, the composition and the chairperson of the Defence Council shall be approved by order of the head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative.

103. The members of the Defence Council shall submit written comments on the dissertation to the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution no later than five days before the defence of the doctoral dissertation. The person defending the dissertation has the right to familiarise himself/herself with the submitted comments.

104. After verifying the documents, the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution shall draft the order by the head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative on the approval of the Defence Council and the date and place of the dissertation defence.

105. After the head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative signs the Order:

105.1. The Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution shall help to organise publication of the dissertation in the required number of copies;

105.2. The Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution shall send a copy of the dissertation to the members of the Defence Council at least one month before the defence of the dissertation;

105.3. The Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution shall announce the defence of the dissertation on the website of the Doctoral Institution and on the website administered by the Research Council of Lithuania no later than one month before the defence. The announcement shall include the name and surname of the dissertation candidate, the institution where the dissertation was prepared, the title of the dissertation, the place and time of the defence, the supervisor, the consultant, the members of the Defence Council, the fields and areas of science and the institutions that they represent, and the website of the Doctoral Institution's where the dissertation is published;

105.4. The Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution shall submit the dissertation which is being prepared for defence to the libraries of the Doctoral Institutions.

106. Expenses for printing of the dissertations submitted by the doctoral students of the Doctoral Institutions shall be covered from the funds of the Doctoral Institution that have been received for the implementation of doctoral studies.

107. The dissertation shall be defended in a public/closed meeting of the Defence Council in accordance with the Regulations of the Defence Council for Defence of Doctoral Dissertations in Psychology Science Field (Annex 2).

108. A dissertation which may contain information constituting a state, professional or commercial secret can be defended in a closed meeting.

109. The dissertation defence can take place in Lithuanian or another language. In cases where another language is used at the meeting, the need for translation into Lithuanian is determined by the chairperson of the Defence Council. The meeting shall be chaired by the chairperson of the Defence Council. The meeting shall be valid if it is attended by more than half of the members of the Defence Council (including those participating by videoconferencing). Comments on the dissertation received from non-participating members of the Defence Council and other persons shall be also read during the meeting. If a decision is made that the degree of the Doctor of Science is not granted, then the arguments for such a decision shall be specified in the minutes of the voting. The chairperson of the Defence Council reads the ruling of the Defence Council to the participants of the meeting and declares the end of the meeting.

110. After the dissertation defence, the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Student Institution shall be given all documents of the defence, including the minutes of the meeting and the decision of the Defence Council on whether the dissertation candidate is to be awarded the degree of the Doctor of Science. On its basis, the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Student Institution (University) shall issue the doctor's diploma.

111. If the Defence Council rules that the degree of the Doctor of Science is not to be awarded, the modified and/or amended dissertation may be submitted for defence no sooner than one year later. In such a case, the doctor's degree may be acquired externally in accordance with the requirements of Chapter IX of these Regulations. If the fact of scientific dishonesty (plagiarism, etc.) is determined, the dissertation cannot be defended.

112. Within 2 weeks after the meeting of the dissertation's public defence, in accordance with the procedure established by the Regulations of Doctoral Studies, the Doctoral Student Institution shall submit one copy of the defended dissertation (except for dissertations defended in a closed meeting) to the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania and the dissertation shall be published on the Lithuanian Database of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) and/or other research management systems of Doctoral Institutions.

113. No later than within 20 working days after the meeting of the dissertation defence, the Doctoral Institution shall notify the Research Council of Lithuania about the results of the doctoral dissertation defence. The notification to the Research Council of Lithuania shall also include information on the reasons why the dissertation was not successfully defended or was not defended at all. Data on the defended dissertation shall be submitted to the dissertation database administered by the Research Council of Lithuania in accordance with the procedure established by it.

114. The registered doctor's diploma shall be awarded to the scientist in accordance with the procedure established by each Doctoral Student Institution, after the dissertation has been published in the Lithuanian Database of Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) and/or other research management systems of Doctoral Institutions.

115. To promote internationalisation and mobility of doctoral students, the Doctor Europaeus certificate can be awarded alongside the doctoral diploma. The procedure for issuing a certificate and the internationalisation requirements according to which it is issued are approved by the Senates of Doctoral Institutions.

116. The file of a person who has defended a doctoral dissertation shall be kept for one year at the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution, and shall be later stored in accordance with the procedure established by the Doctoral Institution. The file or electronic file shall contain:

- 116.1. a request for permission to defend the dissertation along with the attached documents and the Committee's recommendation to defend the doctoral dissertation;
- 116.2. documents on the composition of the Defence Council;
- 116.3. audio recording of the public defence of the dissertation on electronic media;
- 116.4. the Defence Council's ruling on the award of a degree of the Doctor of Science;
- 116.5. a copy of the diploma of the Doctor of Science.

117. If the doctoral student submits the dissertation before the end of the doctoral studies but does not defend it on time, the dissertation can be defended in accordance with standard procedure within 12 months after the end of doctoral studies. A dissertation which was not defended within this period shall be defended externally in accordance with the requirements of Chapter IX of these Regulations. A dissertation defended on time is a dissertation which has been defended no later than within one year after the end of doctoral studies.

IX. Degree of the Doctor of Science obtained externally

118. A person who has a master's qualification degree or its equivalent higher education can seek to obtain a degree of the Doctor of Science externally. A person who studies externally must have published a scientific monograph without co-authors or must have published the main results of the dissertation in at least two articles published in international scientific publications specified in clause 92 of these Regulations.

119. The request addressed to the head of the Doctoral Institution for the permission to defend the doctoral dissertation externally shall be submitted to the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution. The following shall be attached to the request:

- 119.1. electronic version of a dissertation manuscript or a published scientific monograph;
- 119.2. a list of scientific publications and electronic copies of publications;
- 119.3. a diploma confirming the master's degree or equivalent qualification, its supplement or appendage (originals and copies, the originals are returned immediately); a certificate issued by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education regarding recognition of higher education qualification acquired abroad;
- 119.4. copies of minutes or extracts from approved doctoral studies exams (if any);
- 119.5. a curriculum vitae, i.e., a description of life and scientific and creative activities;
- 119.6. a copy of identity document;

120. The head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative shall direct the request with the supplements to the Committee, which shall appoint at least two reviewers and the relevant Department/Institute of the Doctoral Institution to assess the readiness of the dissertation. Researchers from the Doctoral Institutions, other research institutions and social partners can be reviewers. The Department/Institute of the Doctoral Institution shall organise a meeting and determine whether the submitted material meets the requirements of the Regulations. The reviewer shall submit his/her conclusion within one month of the submission of the dissertation/scientific monograph.

121. Upon receipt of the conclusions, the Committee shall hold a meeting, in which the external party shall also participate, no later than three months (excluding July and August) from the submission of the request. After listening to the experts and the person who studies externally, in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations of Doctoral Studies, the Committee shall rule whether the dissertation of the person who studies externally meets the requirements of a doctoral dissertation. If a positive decision is made, in accordance with the procedure of these Regulations, the Committee shall:

- 121.1. assign the external student to the Department/Institute of the Doctoral Institution;

121.2. present the recommendation for the head of the Doctoral Institution to which the request of the person who studies externally was addressed or his/her authorised representative to approve the external student's consultant who shall perform the functions of the external student's supervisor; if the acquisition of the doctoral degree is sought by the person who studies externally who had already studied in the doctoral studies but did not present a dissertation, the Committee can appoint the doctoral student's former supervisor or another individual as his/her consultant;

121.3. decide on the issue of the accepting of the doctoral study exams that have already been passed by the person who studies externally; determine which other doctoral study exams the person who studies externally must pass and until when;

121.4. schedule the date of the dissertation defence, which shall be no later than one year after the day the decision was made by the Committee.

122. Exams for the person who studies externally shall be organised in accordance with the requirements of Chapter VI, whereas the dissertation shall be examined and defended in accordance with the requirements of Chapter VIII of these Regulations.

123. If the Committee decides that the dissertation cannot be prepared for defence within one year from the submission of the application, the external student may file an appeal, which shall be considered in accordance with the procedure established by these Regulations. If the negative decision of the Committee is approved, the person who studies externally may re-submit the request to defend the dissertation no earlier than after one year.

124. The person who studies externally shall cover only those expenses of the Doctoral Institution that are directly related to the acquisition of a degree of the Doctor of Science.

X. Awarding of a degree of the Doctor of Science

125. A degree of the Doctor of Science shall be awarded, and the diploma shall be issued by the university which has the right to conduct doctoral studies.

126. The procedure for the preparation, production, accounting, registration and issuance of the mandatory form of the Doctor of Science degree diploma templates shall be established by the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania.

127. Appeals regarding a degree of the Doctor of Science that has not been awarded shall be examined in accordance with the procedure set forth in these Regulations.

128. The Doctoral Institution may cancel the ruling to award a degree of the Doctor of Science (including the degrees of science awarded until the entry into force of these Regulations) when:

128.1. the fact of scientific dishonesty is determined;

128.2. the degree of Doctor of Science was awarded in violation of the provisions of these Regulations.

129. The university which has awarded a degree of the Doctor of Science may cancel the ruling to award a degree of the Doctor of Science when the Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures makes the ruling which obligates it to do so. The Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures can also obligate the university to cancel the ruling to award a degree of the Doctor of Science made before the entry into force of these Regulations.

130. If the institution which has awarded a degree of the Doctor of Science has been liquidated, the ruling regarding the recognition of the awarded a degree of the Doctor of Science shall be made by the Research Council of Lithuania.

XI. Funding of doctoral studies

131. Doctoral studies shall be funded from the appropriations allocated from the state budget, funds of state investment programmes and state investment projects, income received as the fees of studies, also income from economy and research-related activities and provided services, funds of programme and competition-based funding of scientific research, funds allocated by international and foreign foundations and organisations as well as other legally obtained funds.

132. Doctoral funds at the Doctoral Institution shall be allocated as follows:

132.1 for scholarships (study support) for doctoral students. Persons admitted to state-funded places in a full-time doctoral programme shall be paid a scholarship (study support) of the amount set by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the duration of their studies. When studies are temporarily interrupted and the return to continue the doctoral studies is not on the last or first day of the month, the calendar days of the month shall be included in the duration of the doctoral studies and the corresponding part of the scholarship (study support) shall be paid;

132.2. for the payment of the teaching fees of supervisors, consultants and teachers of doctoral students;

132.3. for the conduct of the doctoral dissertation defence process (for doctoral candidates who publicly defend their doctoral dissertations before the end of their doctoral studies or after a period of up to one year after the end of their studies, for the payment of the fees of the members of the Council, for the travel and accommodation expenses of foreign members of the Council, and for the financing of publication, post services, etc.);

132.4. to finance the costs of doctoral students taking courses at other higher education institutions;

132.5. for the establishment of a research fund to finance the acquisition of materials, goods and services (including open access services) to meet the research needs of doctoral students, the preparation of scientific publications and dissertations, and the international mobility of doctoral students (for study in foreign higher education institutions, participation in international scientific conferences, etc.);

132.6. for funding the development of doctoral students' general competences (organisation of doctoral students' summer schools, language courses, academic writing consultations, etc.);

132.7. for the acquisition and maintenance of the infrastructure necessary for the conduct of the research, the setting up of the workplaces for the doctoral students, access to various subscription databases, licensed software, library resources and publications;

132.8. for the implementation of the initiatives of committees to improve doctoral studies;

132.9. for the promotion of doctoral students (one-time incentive scholarships);

132.10. to cover the costs of units administering doctoral studies, etc.

XII. Quality assurance of doctoral studies

133. Doctoral quality assurance shall be governed by the following external documents: Regulations of Doctoral Studies approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, resolutions of the Research Council of Lithuania, and internal documents of doctoral studies, such as the Regulation of Doctoral Studies in the field of science, work regulations of the Committee of Doctoral Studies, and other internal documents and agreements of doctoral studies.

134. To ensure the quality of doctoral studies in the science field of psychology, the Committee shall conduct an assessment of the quality of doctoral studies in the science field of psychology at least once every five years, taking into account the following indicators:

- 134.1. *Efficiency and effectiveness.* Proportion between the doctoral students and the prepared Doctors of Science in the science field of education; the scientific works published by the doctoral students over the period of doctoral studies; the doctoral students' participation in scientific internships and conferences; the doctoral students' participation in scientific research projects that correspond to the topic of their dissertation; employment and further career of doctoral students who have successfully defended the dissertation.
- 134.2. *Scientific resources.* Researchers participating in the training of doctoral students in the field of science. The qualification shall meet the established qualification requirements.
- 134.3. *Organisational indicator.* The preparation of doctoral students in science field shall be organised as an orderly process, providing reasoned justification for all stages of this process.
- 134.4. *Infrastructure.* The appropriate organisational and material prerequisites are provided for high-quality studies of doctoral students in the field of science and for the promotion of their scientific achievements.

135. The Committee shall carry out the evaluation in accordance with the following procedure:

- 135.1. gets acquainted with the self-analysis material in Psychology science field provided by the Doctoral Institutions, analyse the surveys of doctoral students;
- 135.2. while visiting each Doctoral Institution:
 - 135.2.1. hold a discussion with the employees and scientists responsible for the doctoral study process (discussion procedure: the process of admission to the doctoral studies, study process, doctoral graduation procedures, typical problems and areas for improvement);
 - 135.2.2. discusses with doctoral students (discussion steps: motives for joining the doctoral programme, progress of doctoral studies, scientific supervision, organisation and material support of studies, typical problems and areas for improvement);
 - 135.2.3. on the basis of the received qualitative and quantitative information, evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness; the scientific resources; the organisation of studies and infrastructure of the doctoral studies in the science field of the Doctoral Institutions.
- 135.3. presents summarised conclusions and recommendations on how the quality of the doctoral studies could be improved to the heads of the Doctoral Institutions.

For the period of doctoral studies and for one year after the completion of doctoral studies, the personal file of the doctoral student of the Doctoral Institution (or a person wishing to acquire a doctoral degree externally) shall be stored in the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution, later it shall be submitted to the archive of the Doctoral Institution. The file or electronic file shall contain:

- an application for admission to the doctoral studies, together with the documents specified in the doctoral admission notice;
- the contract of studies;
- doctoral student's declaration of honesty (if prepared in paper form);
- documents on the appointment of the doctoral student's supervisor and consultants;

- the doctoral student's programme (work plan) for the studies, scientific research, publication of its results and doctoral dissertation preparation;
- documents of the doctoral student's annual certifications;
- the Rector's orders (on scholarship payment, postponement of deadlines of doctoral student's programme, etc.);
- pages of study exams of the doctoral student;
- the ruling regarding termination of doctoral studies – if the doctoral student has been removed from doctoral studies because of the conclusions of certification or for other reasons or if he/she did not present the dissertation for defence before the end of doctoral studies;
- the doctoral student's application for permission to defend the dissertation and related documents (minutes from initial considerations, the doctoral student's supervisor's and the Committee's recommendations to permit the defence of the dissertation, the minutes of the final assessment of the dissertation, etc.);
- the Rector's order on the approval of the Defence Council and the setting of the date and place of the defence;
- defence documents: transcript of the dissertation defence meeting, minutes of the Defence Council's vote on the awarding of the scientific degree of the doctor, the received comments on the dissertation by the Defence Council members and others;
- a copy of the diploma of the Doctor of Science.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

1. The dissertation of the Doctor of Science (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation), as an integral publication, shall consist of the following parts (except for the case specified in clause 88): text and abstract of the dissertation. The copies of or references to scientific publications on the dissertation topic by the person submitting the dissertation for defence (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation candidate) shall be added separately.
2. A scientific monograph written by the dissertation candidate without co-authors may also be presented for defence as a dissertation of the Doctor of Science. An abstract of the monograph shall be also provided. In this case, other scientific publications shall be provided if they are required to develop the dissertation topic.
3. A doctoral dissertation may be also defended on the basis of a collection of scientific articles. In this case, the dissertation shall consist of a survey no shorter than 1 author's sheet, an abstract in Lithuanian or foreign language (not in the language in which the survey was prepared) and copies of the dissertation candidate's scientific publications on the dissertation topic. The dissertation candidate must have published the results of the dissertation research in at least four scientific articles (of which at least two are the sole author or the main co-author (a dissertation candidate is considered to be the main co-author of a scientific article when he/she is the first author of the article, unless otherwise stated in the publication that published the article). All authors of an article shall be considered primary co-authors if the article indicates that their contribution is equal. The Committee of Doctoral Studies shall decide on the compliance of the doctoral student's personal contribution with the requirements of the scientific dissertation. The most important research results of the dissertation must be published in at least four articles that have been published or accepted for publication (with a digital object identifier (DOI)) in international scientific publications with a citation index in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (CA WoS) and (or) Elsevier Scopus (Scopus) databases.
4. The text of the dissertation shall be written in Lithuanian or English, or, if approved by the Committee of Doctoral Studies, in a language other than Lithuanian or English. The dissertation abstract (the recommended length is no shorter than 1 author's sheet) shall be prepared in Lithuanian or English (not in the language in which the dissertation's text is written). If the dissertation is written neither in Lithuanian nor English, then two abstracts shall be prepared (in Lithuanian and English). The dissertation and the abstract have to be written in correct language.
5. The recommended length of the doctoral dissertation (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation) is at least 8 author's sheets (one author's sheet is 40 000 characters).
6. The dissertation (based on the case specified in clause 1 of this Annex) shall contain the following main parts:
 - 6.1. The dissertation text:
 - 6.1.1. Introduction. It shall justify the research problem, define the relevance, goal and tasks of the work, novelty and significance of the work, provide the defence statements of the dissertation, indicate the main co-authors of the scientific articles published on the topic of the dissertation.
 - 6.1.2. Survey of research. It shall describe the research on the topic of the dissertation conducted in Lithuania and abroad and present the dissertation candidate's contribution into the examined issues.
 - 6.1.3. Methodology of the work. The methodology of the work and /or research methods shall be presented; the reliability and application limits of the employed methods shall be evaluated.

- 6.1.4. Research results. Discussion of the research results. The obtained research results shall be presented, they shall be summarised, and their reliability and relationship with the results of other researchers shall be evaluated.
- 6.1.5. Conclusions based on the results of the scientific research. They shall reflect the dissertation defence statements and provide solutions to the tasks or problems formulated in the introduction of the dissertation.
- 6.1.6. A list of used (cited) literature.
- 6.2. A list of scientific publications on the dissertation topic by the person presenting the dissertation for defence and the scientific conferences in which the research results have been published;
- 6.3. Copies of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation by the person submitting the dissertation for defence or references to them;
- 6.4. Abstract of the dissertation, which shall include the defined research problem examined in the dissertation, specify the goals and tasks of the work, scientific novelty, research methodology, the key results and the doctoral student's defended conclusions that are based on them;
- 6.5. Supplements (if needed);
- 7. The dissertation (based on the case specified in clause 3 of this Annex) shall contain the following main parts:
 - 7.1. survey (at least 1 author's sheet);
 - 7.2. abstract in Lithuanian or foreign language (not in the language in which the survey is written);
 - 7.3. copies of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation.
- 8. The form of the title page of the dissertation is presented in example 1 of Annex 1. The first page shall contain the following information:
 - 8.1. the institution where the doctoral dissertation is defended;
 - 8.2. name and surname of the dissertation candidate;
 - 8.3. dissertation title;
 - 8.4. text "Doctoral dissertation";
 - 8.5. area of science, field of science and its code.
 - 8.6. place (city) and year.
- 9. The form of the second page of the dissertation is presented in example 1 of Annex 2. The second page shall contain the following information:
 - 9.1. the period and place of the preparation of the dissertation and the legal basis for the exercise of doctoral rights;
 - 9.2. if the dissertation is defended externally, the words "Dissertation is defended externally" shall be entered;
 - 9.3. the scientific supervisor and consultant(s) (if any) of the dissertation candidate. Information about the supervisor and the consultant(s) is written in the following order: current pedagogical/scientific position, academic degree, name, surname, workplace (full name), area of science, field of science and its code. If the dissertation candidate's supervisor has been replaced, the previous supervisor and the time period of his/her work shall be also specified. If the scientific supervisor or the consultant of the dissertation candidate is a foreign scientist, the state shall be indicated next to the workplace that he/she represents;
 - 9.4. name of the science field of the dissertation Defence Council;
 - 9.5. chairperson and members of the dissertation Defence Council. Information about the members of the Defence Council shall be written in the following order: current pedagogical position, academic degree, name, surname, workplace (full name), area of science, field of science and its code. If the member of the Defence Council is a foreign scientist, the state is indicated next to the workplace that he/she represents;

9.6. date and place of dissertation defence (full address).

9.7. The third and fourth pages of the dissertation are the English version of the first title page and the second page of the dissertation (Examples 3 and 4 of Annex 1).

(DOKTORANTŪROS INSTITUCIJOS, KURIOJE GINAMA DAKTARO
DISERTACIJA, PAVADINIMAS)

Vardas Pavardė

MOKSLO DAKTARO DISERTACIJOS PAVADINIMAS

Mokslo daktaro disertacija
Mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis (krypties kodas)

Kaunas, 2024

Daktaro disertacija rengta 20__-20__ metais, ginama (institucijos, kurioje ginama daktaro disertacija pavadinimas) pagal suteiktą (doktorantūros institucijų pavadinimai) institucijoms (suteikimo data, dokumento Nr.) doktorantūros teisę.

Mokslinis vadovas:

prof. habil. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (institucijos pavadinimas, mokslo sritis, mokslo kryptis, mokslo krypties kodas) (*Jeigu buvo du doktoranto moksliniai vadovai, nurodomas vadovavimo laikotarpis*)

Moksliniai konsultantai:

prof. habil. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, mokslo krypties kodas)

prof. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (Xxxx Yyyy universitetas (Švedija), mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis)

(Jei mokslo daktaro disertaciją gina eksternas)

Daktaro disertacija rengta 20__-20__ metais Xxxx Yyyy institucijoje ir 20__-20__ metais (Doktorantūros institucijos pavadinimas) pagal suteiktą (doktorantūros institucijų pavadinimai) institucijoms (suteikimo data, dokumento Nr.) doktorantūros teisę.

Daktaro disertacija ginama eksternu.

Moksliniai konsultantai:

prof. habil. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, mokslo krypties kodas)

prof. dr. Vardenis Pavardenis (Xxxx Yyyy universitetas (Švedija), mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis)

Mokslo daktaro disertacija ginama Mykolo Romerio universiteto, Vytauto Didžiojo universiteto psichologijos mokslo krypties taryboje:

Pirmininkas

prof. habil. dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)

Nariai:

prof. habil. dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)

prof. habil. dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)

dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)

doc. dr. Vardas Vardaitis (Institucijos pavadinimas, mokslų sritis, mokslo kryptis, krypties kodas)

Mokslo daktaro disertacija bus ginama viešame/uždareme psichologijos mokslo krypties tarybos posėdyje 20__ m. xxxxx d. x val. (Institucijos pavadinimas ir vieta).

Adresas: S. Daukanto g. 28, LT - 44248 Kaunas, Lietuva

(DOCTORAL INSTITUTION)

Name Surname

DOCTORAL WORK TITLE

Doctoral Dissertation
Social sciences, Area of science (code)

Kaunas, 2024

This doctoral dissertation was prepared during the period of 2024–2028 at (Doctoral Institution), under the doctoral programme right conferred to Vytautas Magnus University and Mykolas Romeris University on by Order No..... of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania.

Scientific supervisor:

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Scientific consultant:

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

The doctoral dissertation will be defended at the Psychology Research Council of Vytautas Magnus University and Mykolas Romeris University:

Chairperson

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Members:

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

Pedagogical title, Scientific degree Name Surname (Institution, area of science, field of science and its code)

The doctoral dissertation will be defended in the public meeting of the Psychology Science Council attime.... on date, place.

Address: 28 S. Daukanto str., LT - 44248 Kaunas, Lithuania

REGULATIONS OF THE DEFENCE COUNCIL ON THE DEFENCE OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION IN PSYCHOLOGY SCIENCE FIELD

1. These Regulations define the procedure of defence of doctoral dissertations in the science field of education established by the Defence Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) composed in accordance with the Regulations of Doctoral Studies approved by Order No. V-739 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 May 2020.
2. The doctoral dissertation shall be defended, and a scientific degree shall be awarded in the Defence Council, which shall be composed for defence of the specific dissertation after the dissertation has been completed and presented for defence. The Committee shall establish the Defence Council which shall consist of at least five members and appoint one of its members as a chairperson.
3. The members of the Defence Council shall present written comments on the dissertation to the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution no later than 5 working days before the defence of the dissertation.
4. The Committee shall form the Defence Council from at least five members. Members of the Defence Council shall meet the requirements at least the requirements of a senior research worker of the Coordinating Institution and participate in the doctoral process and international scientific and expert activities (qualification requirements apply to the extent related to scientific publications). A conflict of interests cannot emerge between the Defence Council members and the dissertation candidate or between his/her supervisor and the consultant. Members of the Defence Council cannot have co-authored publications with the dissertation candidate. More than half of the members of the Defence Council cannot have had co-authored publications with the dissertation candidate's supervisor or consultant for the last five years. The supervisor and the consultant of the doctoral student cannot be a member of the Defence Council. At least one member of the Defence Council shall be from a foreign institution of research and studies. At least two members of the Defence Council shall be researchers from other than the Doctoral Institution. If the work has been done at the intersection of multiple science fields or if it is required for the defended work to be evaluated comprehensively, two members of the Defence Council can be researchers of other fields of science. On the recommendation of the Committee, the composition and the chairperson of the Defence Council shall be approved by order of the head of the Doctoral Institution or his/her authorised representative.
5. Documents of the Defence Council shall be managed and the meeting for the dissertation defence shall be organised by the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution.
6. Work of the Defence Council shall be organised by the chairperson of the Defence Council. The chairperson of the Defence Council shall:
 - 6.1. examine the file of the person who will defend the dissertation (hereinafter referred to as the dissertation candidate) in advance and make sure that the file and all necessary documents of the meeting (voting ballots, voting minutes' template, etc.) are prepared;
 - 6.2. examine the received comments which shall be presented during the Defence Council meeting or delegate this task to the member(s) of the Defence Council;
 - 6.3. make sure whether the appropriate preparations have been made for the meeting (for the meeting's audio recording or transcribing, demonstration of video material and, if required, translation of the meeting);
 - 6.4. chair the Defence Council's meeting;
 - 6.5. sign the documents of the Defence Council's meeting.

7. The member of the Defence Council shall:
 - 7.1. examine the dissertation presented for defence in advance and evaluate whether it is an original scientific work, which summarises the scientific research conducted by the doctoral student that explores the issue of the science field, whether its content corresponds with other requirements of a doctoral dissertation;
 - 7.2. evaluate whether the dissertation candidate's scientific publications have been published in accordance with the requirements specified in these Regulations and whether they include presentation of the key research results;
 - 7.3. evaluate whether the results of the research have been presented at least two international scientific events.
8. The meeting may be held in Lithuanian or another language. In cases where another language is used at the meeting, the need for translation into Lithuanian is determined by the chairperson of the Defence Council.
9. The meeting shall be valid if it is attended by more than half members of the Defence Council (including those participating by videoconferencing).
10. The meeting of the Defence Council shall be public. A dissertation which may contain information constituting a state, official, professional or commercial secret can be defended in a closed meeting.
11. The proceedings of the meeting shall be as follows:
 - 11.1. The chairperson of the Defence Council, after making sure that more than half of the members of the Defence Council attend the meeting (including those participating by teleconferencing) and that the non-participating members have presented their comments about the dissertation in writing, informs participants of the meeting about the quorum and presents the dissertation candidate's file;
 - 11.2. The dissertation candidate presents the problem, goals, objectives, research data obtained, outcomes of the dissertation, answers questions from the meeting participants; indicates his/her contribution to the publications presented in the dissertation;
 - 11.3. the opportunity is granted for the dissertation candidate's supervisor and his/her consultants to speak;
 - 11.4. the chairperson of the Defence Council announces a scientific discussion;
 - 11.5. the opportunity is granted for the members of the Defence Council; after each speech, the dissertation candidate may request a word, which shall be granted to him/her;
 - 11.6. the chairperson or the member of the Defence Council delegated by him/her reads publicly the comments about the dissertation received from the non-participating members of the Defence Council and other persons; present the comments and conclusions formulated in the comments, and the dissertation candidate may express his/her comments;
 - 11.7. the opportunity is granted for the guests to speak; after each speech, the dissertation candidate may request a word, which shall be granted to him/her;
 - 11.8. The dissertation candidate speaks at the end of the scientific discussion;
 - 11.9. after discussions with the dissertation candidate, the members of the Defence Council decide by voting whether he/she is to be awarded a degree of the Doctor of Science. Members of the Defence Council participating via teleconference also vote. A ruling is made if more than half of all members of the Defence Council vote in favour of it. The minutes of the voting are signed by all members of the Defence Council who participated directly in the meeting.
 - 11.10. the chairperson of the Defence Council reads the ruling of the Defence Council to the participants of the meeting and declares the end of the meeting.
12. After the meeting, the chairperson of the Defence Council returns the dissertation defence documents to the Doctoral School of the Doctoral Institution.